

University of Houston's Alternative Certification Program (ACP) + STELLAR

February 2026

Info subject to change

Agenda

- About UH ACP
- Why UH
- Components and timeline
- Costs
- STELLAR
- How to apply
- Questions
 - uhacp@central.uh.edu



Your Leadership Team

Leadership team



Dr. Amber Thompson
Clinical Professor &
Associate Chair, Teacher Education
University of Houston



Dr. Shea Culpepper
Clinical Professor &
Director of Teacher Education
University of Houston



ACP program manager

Mia Flores

Alternative Certification Program

University of Houston

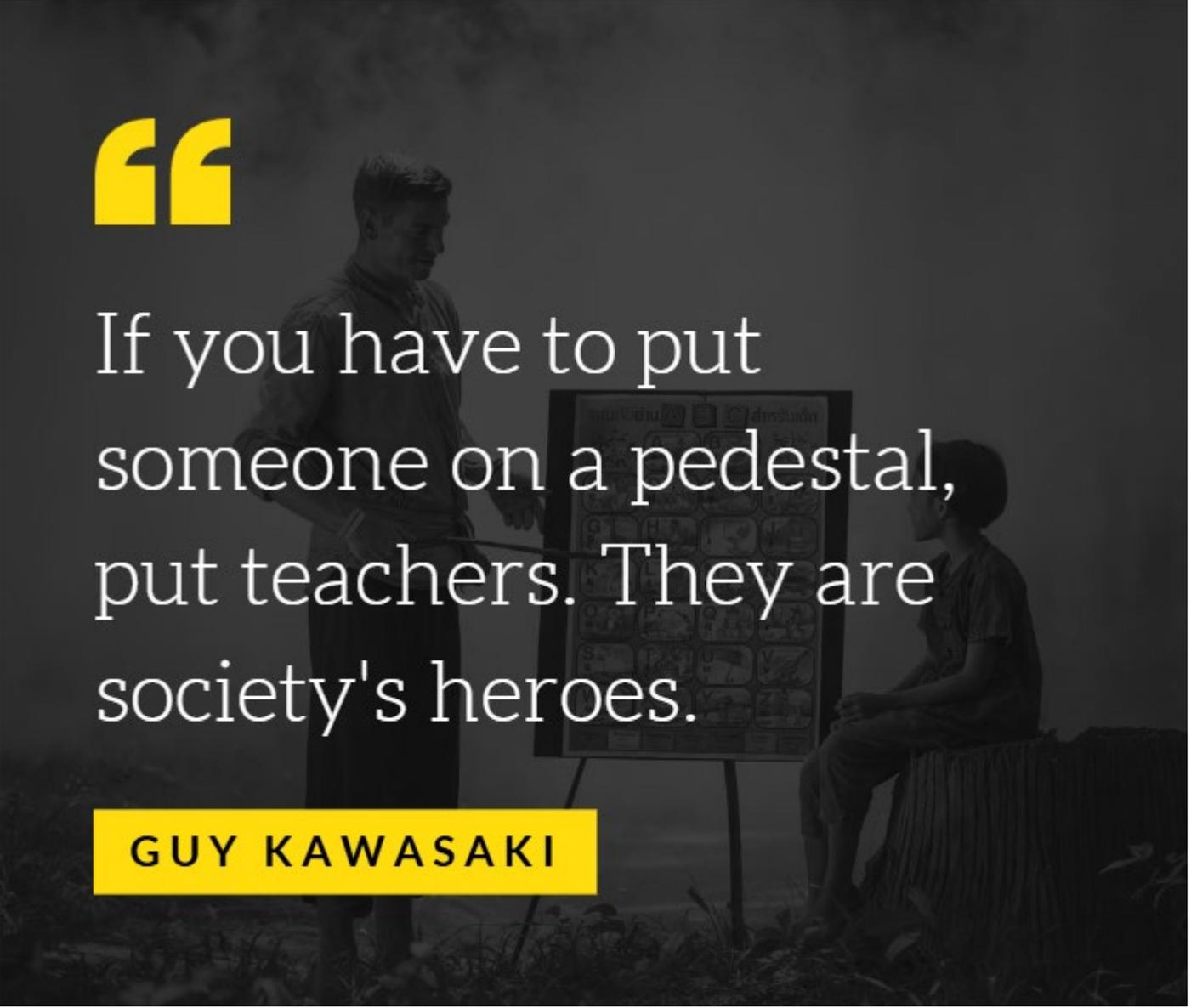


Support

- Certification expert
- Certification guidance and support
- Undergrad teaching resources
- Public school experience and expertise
- Site coordinators

About Teaching and ACP

“

A teacher in a dark jacket is pointing at a whiteboard in a classroom. A student is sitting on a desk, looking at the whiteboard. The whiteboard has a grid of small images or text on it.

If you have to put
someone on a pedestal,
put teachers. They are
society's heroes.

GUY KAWASAKI

Why teach?



TEACHERS MATTER



QUALITY OF LIFE



FINANCIAL BENEFITS

What is needed to teach in Texas?

1. A bachelor's degree
2. **Educator prep program** (*UH ACP*)
3. **Complete certification** (*UH ACP*)
4. **Apply to teach** (*UH ACP*)
5. Background check



Traditional certification vs. Alternative certification

- Traditional route
- Teach in TX while gaining certification
 - Full-time salary
 - *Program benchmarks must be met*
 - Benefits





What does ACP mean?

- **A**lternative (accelerated) **C**ertification **P**rogram
- Teach while you work on completing certification – work on an intern certificate
- Start teaching August 2026
 - All schools require acceptance into a certification program

Certification areas

- EC-6 Core Subjects
- EC-6 Core Subjects + Bilingual Supplemental
- EC-6 Core Subjects + Special Education
- EC-6 Core Subjects + English as a second language (ESL)
- EC-12 Art
- EC-12 Languages Other Than English (LOTE) – Spanish
- EC-12 Special education
- 4-8 English
- 4-8 Mathematics
- 4-8 Science
- 4-8 Social Studies
- 7-12 English
- 7-12 History
- 7-12 Mathematics
- 7-12 Science
- 7-12 Social Studies



UH ACP Requirements

- ✓ Bachelor's degree by May 2026
- ✓ 2.5 GPA
- ✓ All previous **official** transcripts
- ✓ 12-15 Content Hours
 - EC-6 (elementary): 12 hours total of math, history, and English
 - 4-8, 7-12 English/history: 12 hours
 - 4-8, 7-12 Math/science: 15 hours
 - *You most likely have already completed these hours within your bachelor's degree*
- ✓ Resume

International degree?
Watch this [brief video](#) on how
to apply

UH ACP Requirements

Transferring from another EPP?

- ✓ Don't forget your [TEA transfer form](#)

Why UH?

81% of UH education certifications are teaching certifications.

At UH, we've certified over 4,500 educators and this cohort will soon add to that number.



Why Choose UH?

- Job placement assistance
- Certification support
- TEA-approved
- Coursework led by UH faculty
- Strong reputation of success
- Hybrid program
 - Online and face-to-face
 - Robust coaching



Job Support

- We'll **support** you through the entire process.
- Being flexible with your grade levels and subjects will help you **land a job** faster!
- **Benefit** from our trusted district partnerships.



97% job placement



College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

2026-27 UH ACP
**DISTRICT
PARTNERS**

SEVENTEEN
partner
schools
throughout
the Houston
area!

■ Aldine ISD

■ Alief ISD

■ Alvin ISD

■ Clear Creek ISD

■ Cy-Fair ISD

■ Fort Bend ISD

■ Goose Creek CISD

■ Houston ISD

■ Humble ISD

■ Katy ISD

■ KIPP-Houston

■ Lamar CISD

■ Pasadena ISD

■ Pearland ISD

■ Spring Branch ISD

■ Spring ISD

■ Stafford MSD



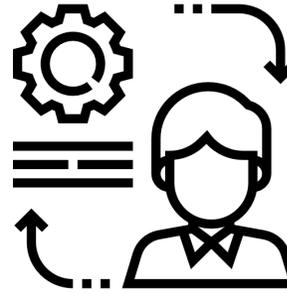
BE THE BEST WITH THE BEST

Alternative Certification Program

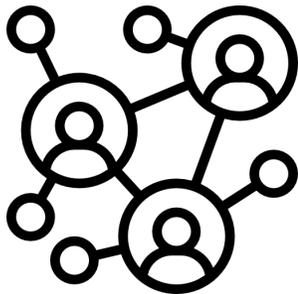
Program components



Hybrid program –
online and **face-to-face**



UH faculty member will **coach** and support you.



Train and teach with a **cohort** of fellow ACP students.



Receive **test prep** and **support** with **certification**.

STEP 1: Apply, get accepted, get started

1. Apply to ACP – **it's free!**
 1. Don't forget your official transcripts
2. Apply to STELLAR (*if applicable*) – also free!
3. Get accepted and enroll to UH ACP
4. Access to online modules, Canva, 240 Tutoring...



STEP 2: Start coursework, job hunt

1. Begin UHACP coursework
 1. Online modules available once enrollment fee is paid
 2. Face-to-Face sessions
2. Complete Field Based hours
3. Pass certification exam(s)
4. Pass criminal background check
5. Apply for jobs



In-Person Workshop Options

	Face-to-Face Workshops 2026	Dates
1	Assessment	Sat., Mar. 7 -or- Mon., Jun. 15
2	Planning for Instruction	Sat., Apr. 11 -or- Wed., Jun. 17
3	Special Education and IEP Process	Sat., Apr. 25 -or- Mon., Jun. 22
4	Delivering Instruction	Sat., May 9 -or- Thu., Jun. 18
5	Monitor and Adjust Instruction	Sat., May 16 -or- Wed., Jun. 24
6	Setting the Stage	Mon., Jun. 8
7	Building Positive Relationships	Wed., Jun. 10
8	Establishing Routines for a Positive Learning Environment	Fri., Jun. 12
9	Performance Assessment and Internship Launching	Fri., Jun. 26

***Subject to change**

STEP 3: You're a teacher!

You're a teacher!

- Full-time salary
- Full-time benefits
- Making a difference!



STEP 4: The first year - make a difference!

1. Continuing face-to-face workshops
2. Monthly Tuesday Zoom seminars
3. Asynchronous online modules
4. Coaching support
5. Pass PPR Exam



Program Costs

Program options

Options	Costs
Pay in full	\$6,000 (SAVE \$500)
Make payments	\$6,500

- *NO application fee*
- *NO interest*
- *NO ongoing fees*
- *Some school districts offer payroll deduction*

Program payment structure

Date	Payment
Application fee	\$0
Enrollment fee (access online coursework, three PreSOE F2F workshops, Field Based Experiences)	\$500 (1 payment upon enrollment)
Payments prior to teaching (remainder of PreSOE F2F workshops)	\$ 500 (2 payments, due March and May)
Academic year 2026 - 2027	\$500 (10 payments)
Total cost:	\$6,500*

*Total cost can be paid in full.

Additional costs to consider

Item	Payment
2026 Intern Certificate	\$78
Fingerprinting and background check	\$50.25
TExES Exam(s) (including PPR exam)	\$116/ exam
240 Tutoring (test prep software)	\$49.99/month * \$25 with ACP discount code
Parking	\$20/visit (roughly)
2027 Standard Certificate	\$78

***240 Guarantee: If you achieve a 90% or higher score on the practice test at the end of a study guide but still do not pass the actual certification exam, you are eligible for a refund**

What is STELLAR?

- Partnership with the ExxonMobil Foundation
- Support Teacher STEM Training (TST)
- Goals
 - Improve the STEM knowledge of math and science teachers
 - Enhance teachers' ability to teach STEM content
 - Provide teacher STEM training at no cost to teachers
- UH's ACP + science or math = funding

**STELLAR = STEM Teacher
Training: Enhancing Learning,
Leadership, and Academic Rigor**

Requirements

1. A bachelor's degree with **15** credit hours in science **or** math
2. Accepted into **ACP**
3. Obtain a job teaching:
 - Science **or** math
 - **Middle school** grade level
 - E.G.: 6th, 7th, or 8th grade math or science
 - **Houston ISD, KIPP-Houston, or Spring ISD**



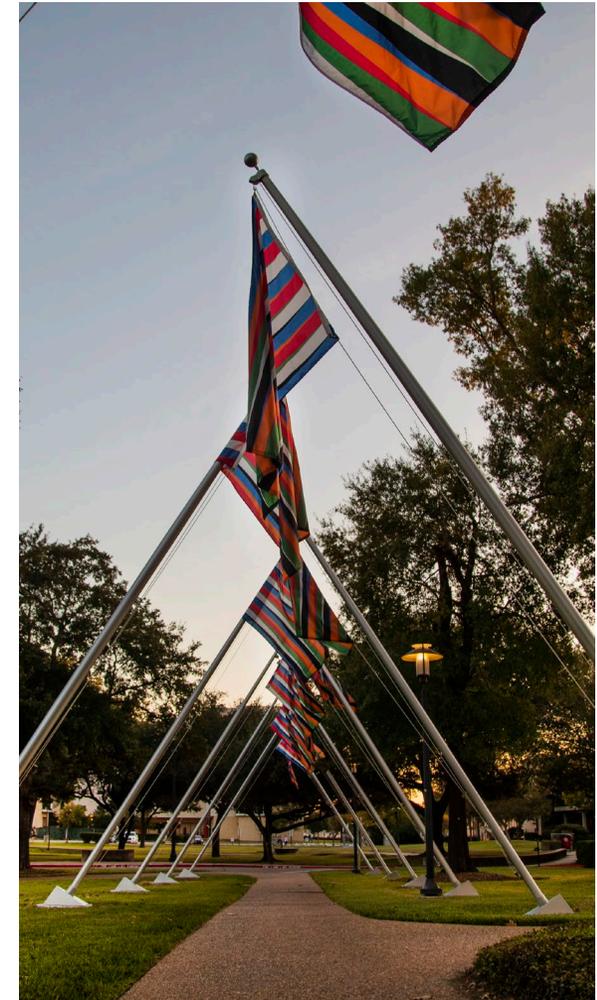
Certification areas

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- EC-12 Art
- EC-12 Languages Other Than English (LOTE) – Spanish
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- 4-8 English
- **4-8 Mathematics**
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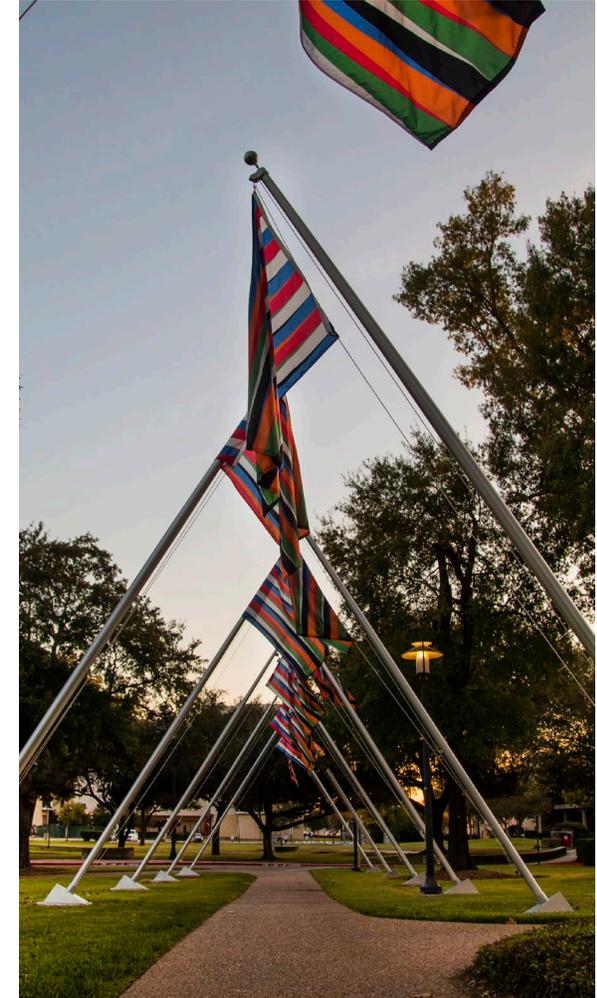
Math examples

1. A bachelor's degree with **15** credit hours **math**
 - Bachelor of science
 - Typically 12 credit hours/4 math classes
 - Examples for math include:
 - College algebra
 - Calculus
 - Trigonometry
 - Statistics
 - Linear Algebra



Science examples

1. A bachelor's degree with **15** credit hours of **science**
 - Bachelor's of Science varies by university
 - Examples for science include:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Precalculus or Calculus (often 4 credits)



TX PACT exam

- What if I don't have content hours?
 - PACT
 - Doesn't guarantee acceptance
 - Cost: \$106 - \$131

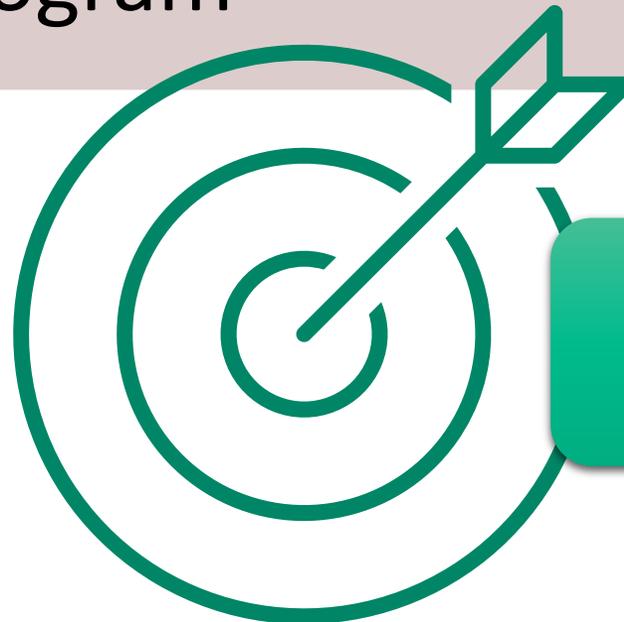


Participating districts



Program cost

Application fee	\$0
UH ACP Program	\$6,500



Program cost covered by
ExxonMobil

Additional certification costs

Item	Payment
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240 Tutoring (test prep software)	\$49.99/month* \$25 with ACP discount code
Parking	\$20/visit (roughly)
2027 Standard Certificate	\$78

Next steps: apply!

1. Apply to [UH ACP](#)
2. Apply to [STELLAR](#) (*if applicable*)



UH ACP application



Alternative Teacher Certification Application Portal

Alternative Teacher Certification Application is now available!

Login Section

If you already have an existing account, please **log in** here.

Create Account Section

If you are new to us, please **create an account** here.

UH ACP TEA ID

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Information

Do you have a TEA ID Number? *

- Yes
- No

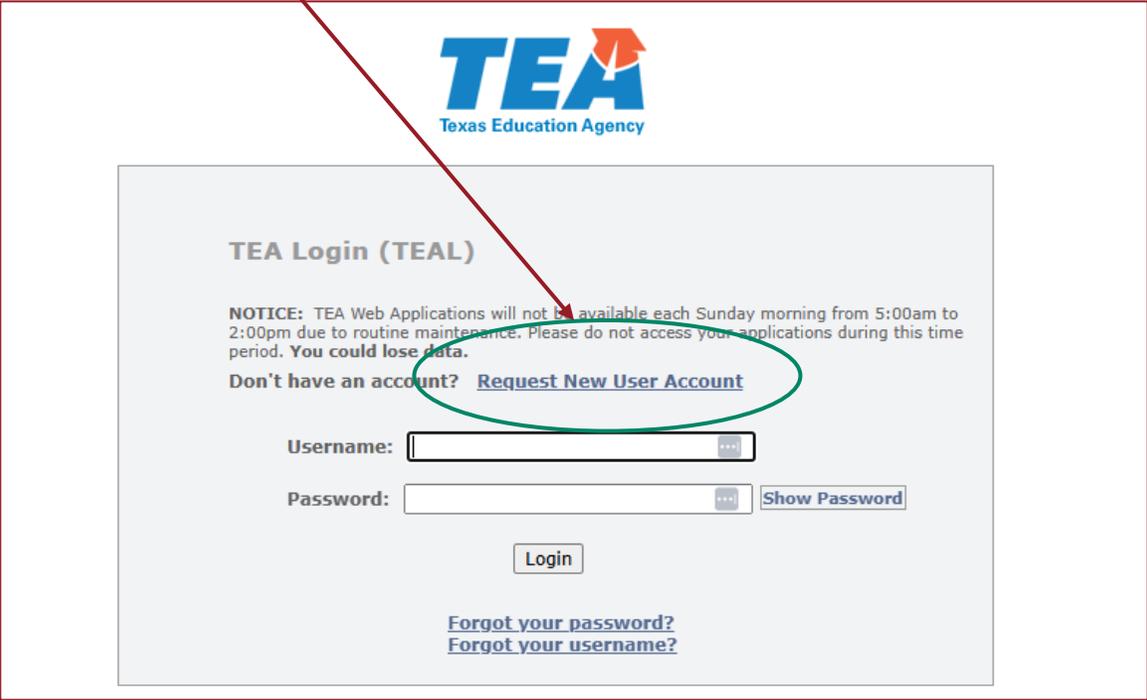
Need a TEA ID?

To complete this section, you must have a TEA ID number. If you do not already have one, please create an account on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website to obtain your TEA ID.

Create or manage your TEA account [here](#).

Step-by-step guide to getting your TEA ID

1. Go to tealprod.tea.state.tx.us
2. Click on the "Request New User Account" link.



TEA
Texas Education Agency

TEA Login (TEAL)

NOTICE: TEA Web Applications will not be available each Sunday morning from 5:00am to 2:00pm due to routine maintenance. Please do not access your applications during this time period. **You could lose data.**

Don't have an account? [Request New User Account](#)

Username:

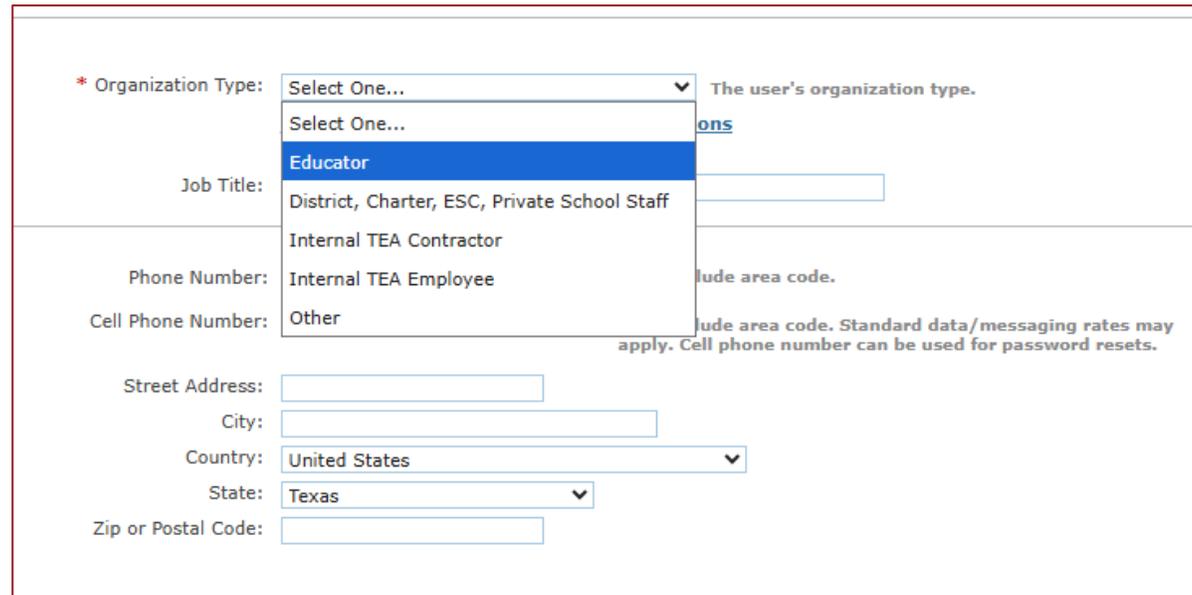
Password: [Show Password](#)

[Login](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)
[Forgot your username?](#)

Step-by-step guide to getting your TEA ID

3. Enter details: Provide your information exactly as it appears on official documents (like your driver's license).
4. Fill out the form: Complete the online form, selecting "Educator" as your organization type.



* Organization Type: Select One... The user's organization type.

Job Title:

Phone Number: Include area code.

Cell Phone Number: Include area code. Standard data/messaging rates may apply. Cell phone number can be used for password resets.

Street Address:

City:

Country: United States

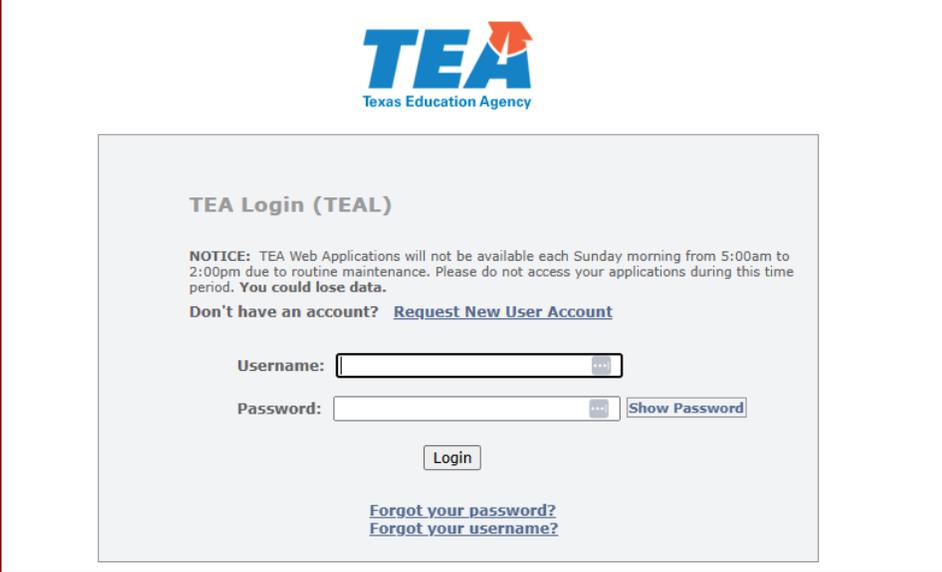
State: Texas

Zip or Postal Code:

Step-by-step guide to getting your TEA ID

5. **Submit and confirm:** Submit the form; you'll get an email with your account info.

6. **Find your ID:** Log in to your new TEAL account, and your TEA ID will be visible on the main page, often under the "Educator" section or next to the "View My Educator Certification Account" link.



The screenshot shows the TEA Login (TEAL) page. At the top is the TEA logo (Texas Education Agency). Below it is the title "TEA Login (TEAL)". A notice states: "NOTICE: TEA Web Applications will not be available each Sunday morning from 5:00am to 2:00pm due to routine maintenance. Please do not access your applications during this time period. You could lose data." Below the notice is a link: "Don't have an account? [Request New User Account](#)". There are two input fields: "Username:" and "Password:". The "Password:" field has a "Show Password" button next to it. Below the input fields is a "Login" button. At the bottom, there are two links: "[Forgot your password?](#)" and "[Forgot your username?](#)".

UH ACP application time consideration

- Review the [Texas Administrative Code of Ethics](#) (sections 247.1 and 247.2)
Estimated time: 15 minutes
- Watch the [TEA Teacher Ethics Training Series](#) (10 short videos)
Estimated time: 1 hour
- Official college transcripts to UHACP@Central.uh.edu
Estimated time: 1 week
- Prepare to record your admission video.
Estimated time: 20 minutes

UH ACP application video

In the ACP application, you will record a 3–5-minute video responding to the following:

1. Thinking of your desired certification, why do you want to teach this age and/or content?
2. How will you be an effective teacher?
3. What is your biggest challenge for completing your teaching certification?
4. How will you support the learning of all the students in your classroom?
5. What experience do you have that has helped prepare you to be a teacher?
6. What is your teaching philosophy?

UH ACP Requirements

- ✓ Bachelor's degree by May 2026
- ✓ 2.5 GPA
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ 12-15 Content Hours
- ✓ All previous official transcripts
 - UHACP@central.uh.edu

STELLAR application

University of Houston | ExxonMobil Foundation

Priority Deadline: January 10, 2026. Rolling applications close March 10, 2026.

UH STELLAR offers early-career HISD, KIPP - Houston, or Spring ISD Title 1 campus middle school STEM teachers a year-long purposeful learning opportunity. Applicants may select to be considered for the alternative certification route (provided at no cost) OR the professional development only route (which includes stipend).

[Start now](#)

Application Preparation

Two important questions:

1. How might participation in STELLAR support your personal professional growth as a teacher? (150 words maximum)
2. What strengths would you bring to the STELLAR learning community? (150 words maximum)

STELLAR Requirements

1. A bachelor's degree with **15** credit hours in science **or** math
2. Accepted into **ACP**
3. Obtain a job teaching:
 - Science **or** math
 - **Houston ISD, KIPP-Houston, or Spring ISD**

Next step: **APPLY!**

UH ACP
STELLAR

Application fee: \$0

ACP and STELLAR deadline:
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

REMINDER

Send your transcripts!

Transferring to UH ACP

We're glad to have you. Please be sure to complete the TEA transfer form.



Questions?

Congratulations!

You've taken the first step towards a rewarding career in education!

Don't forget — **we're here for you!**

Email us anytime at:
uhacp@central.uh.edu



THANK YOU!